GRAPEVINE
VISITACION·VALLEY

NUMBER 166 SERVING OUR COMMUNITY MAY 2000

Former Geneva Towers Residents Returning to Their New Homes

Residents have already started moving into completed Heritage Homes along Sunnydale Avenue at Rey Street while construction continues on adjacent units near Schwerin Street.

HUD and local organizations were on hand the morning of Apr. 28 in a *Welcome Home Celebration* for returning Geneva Towers residents at both the new Heritage Homes and Britton Courts located along Sunnydale Avenue.

Eight families have already moved into completed units of three-story townhouses of Heritage Homes--occupying the same site as the former Geneva Towers--in mid-April with eight more families scheduled to move in by June 1.

Of the 287 families in good standing issued Section 8 vouchers when the twin 20-story Towers were closed in the fall of 1995, 131 will have returned to the neighborhood by the time all the structures are completed in several months.

Valley Planning Alliance Details Alternative Plans For Schlage Lock Site

Emphosizing thot o Home Depot proposal for the Schlage Lock site along Bayshore Boulevord is not a done deal, the Grapevine presents a special report compiled by the Visitacion Valley Plonnin Allionce that outlines its alternative plans for a more neighborhood-friendly complex.

Background

VISion, the Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance, is a group of neighbors interested in improving the quality of life in the Valley. The group feels there is now a unique opportunity to make an enduring, positive and significant difference in the community and change the destiny of Visitacion Valley in a profound way.

Home Depot has proposed to build a new outlet at the Schlage Lock site on Bayshore. That location was zoned in the 1920s as an industrial site, but over the years the surrounding area has become predominately residential. It now creates a wedge dividing Little Hollywood from Visitacion Valley.

The Home Depot proposal is inappropriate in terms of size, single use and traffic impact, to say nothing of forever denying the neighborhood a chance to truly revitalize. Its tax revenues will not create new revenue, but will be taken from existing revenue accrued mostly from smaller businesses in the southeast sector of the City which will be driven out of business.

Supervisor Gavin Newsom has scheduled a hearing of the Board of Supervisors' Small Business Committee on June 1 at 10 a.m. in room 263 of City Hall to address these concerns.

See Page 3

Help for Consumers Saddled with Debt

Washington, DC - Have you ever felt like you will never be able to pay off all of your bills? If so, information in the new Debt Relief Kit from Financial Assistance Network in Washington D.C may help you.

Recent studies have shown that consumers are struggling with debt now more than ever. Over one million people are expected to file for bankruptcy in 2000. The Bankruptcy Act of 1978 is the basis for the law as it currently stands, offering a fresh start when necessary.

While bankruptcy laws continue to help those who truly require assistance, many individuals today mistakenly view bankruptcy as a "quick fix" to their financial troubles. For people who are behind on credit card payments, bankruptcy has become an increasingly more common request. It is, however, the "court of last resort" since individuals who declare bankruptcy face many difficulties ahead of them.

As an alternative to bankruptcy, Financial Assistance Network, has just announced the release of their debt relief kit. The kit contains everything necessary to help consumers combine their bills into one convenient monthly payment. In many cases, creditors reduce or waive interest completely in an effort to help consumers avoid filing for bankruptcy. The average interest that is charged after consolidation is 6 to 9 percent.

If the cardholder pays the minimum payment every month, it takes over 27 years to pay off a $7,500 balance. When late, over limit and annual fees are added, the balance increases, making it impossible to pay off, if the minimum payment is paid each month. Debts can usually be liquidated in 3 to 5 years by having creditors lower interest and waive late fees. Overall monthly payments are usually decreased, giving the consumers the relief that they are seeking.

Using the Debt Relief Kit, consumers fill out a simple creditor listing sheet and send it back for processing. "Everyone's bills are different, so consumers will receive their own personal debt reduction proposal for their particular situation," says Paul Navestad, founder of Financial Assistance Network.

The kit also has information and forms for consumers and businesses to apply for debt settlement services. Debt settlement gives consumers a fresh start without bankruptcy. "Our attorney assisted program has helped many individuals and companies settle their past due debts by negotiating settlements of 25 to 40 cents on the dollar," says Navestad. "This program is usually successful for individuals with past due credit cards, department store charges, medical bills, collection items, repossessions and IRS or other taxes. It is amazing to see how a person's outlook on life can change when they are able to get out from under their overwhelming debt and they are able to start living their dreams again."

The preparation of the personal debt reduction proposal is free of charge. Consumers can receive a debt relief kit by sending $5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Financial Assistance Network Debt Relief Kit Offer, Dept. DRK-ED0429, P.O. Box 60944, Washington, DC, 20039-0944. Consumers can also get information from Financial Assistance Network's Internet web site: www.FinancialAssistanceNetwork.org or toll free hotline: 1-800-940-9048.

Financial Assistance Network is an organization established by volunteers dedicated to helping consumers manage difficult financial situations. The primary purposes of Financial Assistance Network are to inform potentially qualified applicants about debt relief programs for which they appear eligible and assist them in the enrollment process.

Credit Card Facts

*The average American household with at least one credit card carried a credit card balance of $7,564 in 1999. In 1990, the typical American household with at least one credit card had a credit card balance of $2,985.

*Seventy eight million of the 105 million households in the United States had at least one credit card last year.

*The 1999 average annual percentage rate on all bank credit cards was 17.11 percent.

*The revolving balance of credit card debt totaled $580 billion in 1999. That included $490 billion on bank credit cards and $90 billion on store credit cards.

*Americans charged more than $1 trillion on their VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards during 1999.

*There were 506 million VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards in circulation in the United States last year.

Statistics provided by CardWeb.Com

U.S. on Globalization Bubble: Will Job Losses Make it Burst?

by Robert E. Swift

(NAPS) The Internet was disrupted recently as a result of an assault by one or a group of ingenious hackers whose effective intrusion made national and international news. For the most part, this amounted to a noticeable blip in the lives of many middle and upper middle income earners who couldn't buy or sell stocks or wander through the electronic ether from the convenience of their homes or offices.

This is yet another signal that the business world around us is changing, some of it positive and some not. We've placed globalization on a pedestal of political and economic necessity in the late 90s and like the uncertainties built into the Internet, international commerce also comes with insecurities and dependencies that make our economy less secure.

The notion of globalization came as a natural outgrowth of our technological age, which connects us more quickly to counterparts around the world. But speed of connectivity is not virtue or rationale enough to the tens of thousands of American workers caught up in the political machinations that in the name of globalization has created personal chaos in their lives. The North American Free Trade Agreement, which virtually eliminates economic and geographic boundaries with our neighbors to the north and south on this continent, and the World Trade Organization, that 135-member group established to mediate and facilitate trade among an enormously disparate association of economies and cultures, have at least in this country taken an enormous toll on employees in the manufacturing sector of all industries, and especially that of the textile and apparel industry that lost 96,000 jobs in 1999 and 453,000 since December 1994.

See Page 7

HUD Announces Recommended Revisions to Model Building Codes

WASHINGTON - Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo on Mar 30 announced that HUD has issued its final review of four model building codes. The review was intended to determine how the four codes might be revised to better comply with the Fair Housing Act, thereby ensuring that more apartments and condominiums are built to be accessible to people with disabilities.

"I am pleased that HUD has been able to work with the model code, home building industry and disability advocacy organizations to make it easier for builders to comply with the Fair Housing Act. It helps us create something we all want--increased housing opportunities for people with disabilities."

The Final Report is intended as a review only for the purpose of providing technical assistance, and does not impose any new requirements on builders, nor does it endorse any particular model code. Even though it has issued this Final Report, HUD continues to work with the model building code organizations, the building industry and disability advocates to further refine recommended model building code language and to develop additional code language that reflects changes needed.

A HUD-commissioned study has found that if builders comply with the Fair Housing Act during construction, their dwelling-unit costs rise by only about one-half of one percent. However, remodeling a building that has already been constructed can cost a great deal more.

Local governments use these "model" codes, developed by private organizations, as a starting point for adopting their own building and safety codes, taking into consideration needs particular to their location such as climate or proximity to earthquake fault lines. Building inspectors for these local governments issue construction and occupancy permits based on compliance with these codes.

As part of its continuing education and technical assistance to the building industry, HUD agreed to review existing model building codes to determine where they did not meet the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act. The House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations in 1999 also asked for a report. The Final Report sent to Congress in March and

shared with the industry, advocates and the public also makes recommendations on where the codes could be changed to be consistent with the Act.

The Final Report of the HUD Review of Model Building Codes can be viewed on HUD's web site at www.hud.gov/fhe/modelcodes/.

Organizations and individuals representing code officials, disability advocates, architects, home builders, the multi-family housing industry, and model codes have come out in support of HUD's Final Report.

The Fair Housing Act, enacted in 1968, was amended in 1988 to outlaw housing discrimination against people with disabilities, among other things. In 1989, HUD issued its regulations implementing the Act's design and construction requirements to make sure that apartments and condominiums were accessible for people with disabilities, especially those who use wheelchairs. In March 1991, after consideration of extensive public comment from architects, developers, builders, persons with disabilities, and other interested groups, HUD published the "Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines," which set forth specific guidelines for designing dwelling units consistent with the Act.

The Fair Housing Act applies to all dwelling units in apartment buildings built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, which have an elevator and four or more units. If the building has four or more units but does not have an elevator the law applies to all ground floor units. The Act requires that:

*Public and common areas must be accessible to persons with disabilities;

*Doors and hallways be wide enough for people in wheelchairs;

*Routes into and through the unit be accessible;

*Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls be accessible;

*Bathroom walls are reinforced to allow later installation of grab bars; and

*Kitchens and bathrooms are usable by people in wheelchairs.

In its final report, HUD reviewed the following private-sector codes and standards reflected in the Uniform Building Code, 1997 edition (UBC); the Standard Building Code, 1997 edition (SBC), the BOCA National Building Code, 1996 edition (BNBC); and, the International Building Code (IBC). HUD originally was asked to look at the IBC's 1997 draft code. Once the review was underway, the Department agreed to undertake a limited review of the proposed IBC 2000 when it became available during the review process.

Although HUD since 1989 has been providing education and technical assistance on the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act, it became clear that more guidance on the requirements would be useful. Many builders contend that they are only aware of their local building code requirements. Thus, by working to ensure that the local building code requirements are consistent with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act will significantly increase the number of units that are properly constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

The Fair Housing Act bars housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family status and national origin. The Act covers the sale, rental, financing and advertising of almost all housing in the nation. Fair housing investigations are conducted by HUD investigators, state and city

agencies working with HUD, and private fair housing groups that receive HUD funds.

People who believe they've been harmed by housing discrimination can file complaints with HUD by calling 1-800-669-9777, TDD 1-800-927-9275 or on the Internet at www.hud.gov/hdiscrim.html.

Song of the Earth Festival

Polynesian dancers entertained at the first annual Song of the Earth Festival on Earth Day, April 22 in the west end of Golden Gate Park. The event featured youth and professional performers.

GRAPEVINE MAILBOX

Assembly Bill Would Stop Forced Molting

Dear Editor:

Every year, 22 million worn-out laying hens in California are starved and kept in complete darkness for up to two weeks. This cruel process, called "forced molting," shocks hens into laying more eggs just before they are sent to slaughter. Hundreds of thousands die; surviving birds lose up to 35 percent of their body weight. Already weakened from spending their entire lives in tiny cages, they grow frantic as the days pass, pecking repeatedly at their food trays, trying to find a bit of grain to sustain them.

Assembly Bill 2141 would stop this suffering by making forced molting illegal. The bill would protect humans, too, as government scientists have shown that forced molting causes higher rates of Salmonella enteritidis (Se). It is estimated that passage of AB 2141 could spare 800 Californians a year from contracting Se and save at least five lives.

I urge your readers to call their legislators immediately and ask them to co-sponsor AB 2141.

Sincerely,
Kathy Guillermo
People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals

Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday at 1 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). All ages are welcome; under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Museum admission is free with $4 per person workshop fee (except where noted). Call 554-9600 for further information.

There will be a free *Animal Story Hour* on May 20 at 11:30 a.m.

*May 13: **Clay Boxes** - Make and decorate a clay box to store treasures.

*May 20: **Bug Day** - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet entomologists, beekeepers, artists and storytellers, all celebrating the world that buzzes, crawls, flies and spins around us. Presented in collaboration with the Butterfly Discovery Park and UC Berkeley entomology students.

*May 27: **Moving Bamboo Sculptures** - See Lamie Fox's sculpture exhibit and work with the artist to make a miniature bamboo sculpture.

Prescription Drugs Available at Low Cost

Is your medication too expensive for your budget? If so, information in a new booklet might help.

The Cost Containment Research Institute of Washington, DC has just published a 32-page booklet, *Free and Low Cost Prescription Drugs*. The revised fourth edition gives information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs.

"Many major drug companies provide free or low cost medication, but rarely, if ever publicize the programs," said Allen Nichols, director of the Institute. "We've published an A-to-Z listing of all the drugs that are available to certain qualified groups for free or at very low cost directly from the manufacturer."

Consumers can receive a copy by sending $5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Institute Fulfillment Center, Booklet #: PD-370, P.O. Box 462, Elmira, NY 14902-0462. Information is also available at www.institutedc.org

GRAPEVINE
VISITACION VALLEY
Published monthly by Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134
VVCC Executive Director: Julia A. Kavanagh
(415) 467-9300, Fax: 467-3757, Subscription: $4
E-mail the Grapevine at: visvalley@earthlink.net
Internet Site: http://home.earthlink.net/~visvalley
Editor..... **Len Applano**
Reporter..... **Gerry L. Galvan**
Billing..... **Florence Pewtherer**
Visitacion Valley Grapevine was named by Pat Crocker and is a Registered California Trademark of VVCC.
Opinions in the Grapevine are not necessarily those of VVCC. ©2000 VVCC. All rights reserved.

Technology Improving Quality of Our Lives

by Mayor Willie Brown

The City and County of S.F. has long been committed to using available technologies and even developing new technologies that provide all San Franciscans access to city services.

Assistive technologies are tools or resources that individuals use to maintain their quality of life. From eyeglasses, canes, wheelchairs, remote controls and voice-activated computers, assistive technologies are not limited to people with disabilities--everyone uses them.

The City and County of S.F. is the leader among local governments in using new technologies to provide access to city services. Our philosophy is *whot we con do* to integrate people with disabilities, *we sholl do*. As new technologies become available and become cheaper, we are using them. Some of the things we've done:

Our City Treasurer Susan Leal installed the first talking ATM in the U.S. in City Hall. Individuals who are blind are able to plug-in headphones to the machine to conduct transactions.

San Francisco is working with the TRACE Research Center and Quad Media to install California's first fully accessible Internet information kiosk in City Hall. The kiosk, which will help blind people and others access city services, will open this spring.

We are the first local government to install infra-red audible signs, *Tolking Signs*, in the U.S. San Francisco City Hall includes more than 280 signs, and *Tolking Signs* are also used widely in the Marin Public Library, the Courts Building, bus shelters and S.F.'s new Pac Bell Park.

We worked with the J.C. DeCaux Company to develop the design criteria for the first accessible automatic sidewalk toilets in the world. Twenty-five DeCaux toilets are in use today.

The San Francisco taxi industry now operates the largest fleet of ramp taxis in California. Ramp taxis make paratransit on demand a reality with door-to-door services. S.F. just increased its fleet by 18 taxis this year.

In the area of public safety, we are replacing fire alarm pull stations on our streets with accessible, operable controls so anyone can use them in an emergency. We are also working with state fire officials to create a talking emergency exit system.

San Francisco is continuing to improve and adapt architectural accessibility specifications. The two children's playgrounds in Civic Center Plaza are fully usable by children with disabilities of all ages, and their disabled parents.

Those are just a few examples of our work to make S.F. the most accessible city in the U.S. to residents and businesses alike.

Friends of the Urban Forest Education Events

*Thursday, May 11, Seminar: Revamping the Embarcadero, Palms as Centerpiece - Martha Ketterer from the San Francisco DPW Landscape Division discusses the design and implementation of the new Embarcadero streetscape. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the FUF office.

*Saturday, May 13, Pruning Workshop: Guest Pruner – Ted Kipping. Learn how to prune young street trees with an expert. Meet at 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Café J, 1708 Church Street, between 29th and Day.

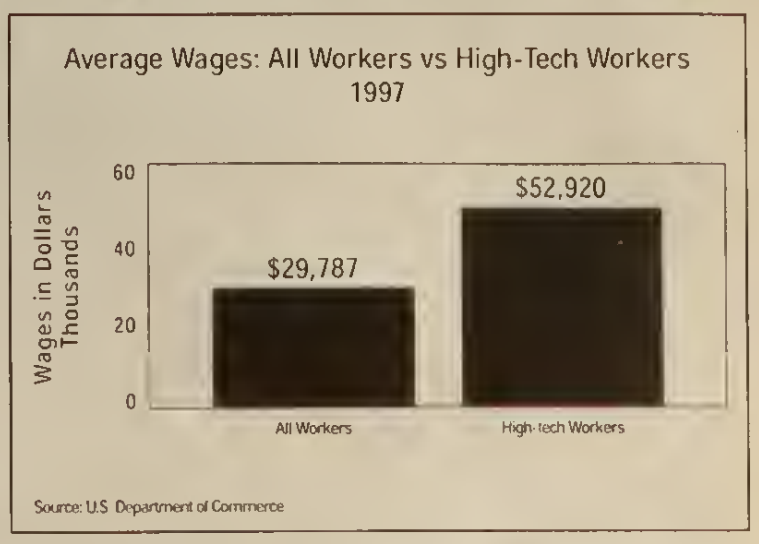
*Tuesday, May 16, Tree Tour: The Embarcadero with Martha Ketterer, DPW Landscape Architect. Meet at noon at the Vaillancourt Fountain in Justin Herman Plaza.

*Thursday June 8, Seminar: Invaders: New and Familiar Pests of Our Urban Forest. A slide/discussion by Bruce Hagen of the California Department of Forestry, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the FUF office.

*Thursday, July 13, Seminar: The Changing San Francisco Landscape. Historian Greg Garr presents slides contrasting old San Francisco with the city today, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the FUF office.

For directions and to RSVP for all events, call 415.561-6890 ext. 108 or e-mail: esta@fuf.net

Technology Services May Offer Decade's Top Job Opportunities



While rapid workforce changes are producing a multitude of new jobs in the technology sector, a careful look reveals that these opportunities are not only in the high-tech areas, but in technology service as well.

Department of labor statistics show that high technology has added more than one million jobs to the U.S. economy since 1993. The fact that the average high-tech job pays 78 percent more than the average private sector jobs is a real eye-opener for many young job seekers eager to train for promising positions.

Today's technology growth jobs differ drastically from what the Department of Labor calls "yesterday's jobs," such as typewriter repair technicians, COBOL and FORTRAN instructors, and key-punch operators.

While those jobs were the "hot" career paths of the past, current trends in technology indicate that the "hot" jobs of tomorrow will likely center on technology services.

New Tech

One of the most promising areas within tech services is information cabling. The extreme shortage of qualified, professional electrical workers available to wire buildings for information technology systems justifies the strong demand and high pay for their unique skills.

The organized electrical construction industry--through a joint effort of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)--operates the nation's most extensive training program for bringing highly skilled professional workers into electrical construction.

It's earn-as-you-learn, multi-year training programs for electrical workers provides a salary, health and pension benefits, and college credits during the apprenticeship period.

Pay Benefits

Currently, apprenticeship NECA-IBEW installer/technicians for information cabling earn an average of $50,000 to $75,000 over the three-year training period. Salaries for journeyman installer/technicians can exceed $50,000 a year.

As sponsors for the largest and longest-running training program for the electrical construction industry, NECA-IBEW expects the call for professional electrical workers, especially those involved in voice-data-video installations, to continue well into the 21st century.

In fact, it estimates it will need to recruit and train an additional 50,000 cabling installer/technicians over the next 10 years to meet the exploding demand for wiring information technology systems into the nation's building stock.

An informative pamphlet on careers in information cabling and other electrical specialties is available at no charge by writing Electrical Construction Careers, P.O. Box 2532, North Babylon, NY 11703.

Show You Care by Composting

by Debby Dunn, S.F. Recycling Program

Q: The sun's shining, my garden's growing, and my trash can's over flowing. What can I do?

A: Compost all your valuable yard trimmings, don't trash them! For those of you who are not familiar with composting, it is what you can do to recycle organic material from your yard such as leaves, grass, and other plant trimmings. Even fruit and vegetable scraps can be added to your compost pile.

Composting benefits both you and the environment by naturally breaking down organic materials into a dark rich soil amendment that will feed your plants. The final product can conserve water in your garden when used as ground cover, and reduces pollution by diverting waste away from our landfills. You may even be able to reduce the size of your garbage can thereby reducing your garbage bill.

You can learn how to compost at FREE workshops given year round by the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) and sponsored by the City and County of San Francisco's Recycling Program. These classes will teach you how to backyard compost as well as how to compost with worms in a special bin (perfect for apartment residents). San Francisco residents can buy a discounted bin at the May 13th Compost Bin Sale at Goodman Lumber, and learn how to compost by attending a free composting class (see below).

Free Backyard Composting and Worm Composting Classes

May 13, *Borgoin Compost Bin Sole*. Goodman Lumber Park Lot. 445 Bayshore Blvd. 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

May 14, "*Leorn to Use Your New Worm Bin or Earth Mochine Compost Bin*. Garden of the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton Street. 10 a.m.–12 noon.

May 27, *Composting in the Mission*. (Spanish and English). Alioto Park, 20th St. at Capp. 1–3 p.m.

June 3, *Composting in North Beoch*. (Cantonese and English). Paula Young Community Garden, Columbus at Bay. 10 a.m.–12 noon.

June 10, *Urbon Composting*. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. 10 a.m.-12 noon.

For more composting information, please call SLUG's Rotline at (415) 285-7585 or check out sfrecycle.org.

Q: I read that people are recycling more these days than ever, but they are also generating more garbage than ever. Is this true?

A: Yes, it is true that Americans are not only recycling more than ever, but generating more materials too. A report by the non-profit Grass Roots Recycling Network showed that Americans recycled, composted or reused 28 percent of household and commercial discards in 1998, nearly triple the 1980 rate. But, for the first time in years, the amount of material going to landfills has started to increase again. Waste increased by 4.4 million tons between 1996 and 1997, the most recent completed data. While San Francisco is way ahead of the national average in recycling (we're at 40 percent), the amount of waste going to our landfill is also increasing. Our disposal decreased every year from 1990 through 1995, but has since increased from 655,000 tons in 1995 to 887,000 tons in 1998.

Even though Americans are recycling more, they are also buying more. In addition, many of the products out there are over packaged. You can help keep garbage down by: a) recycling all your cans, bottles, and paper; b) composting your yard trimmings and food scraps (see the first Q & A); c) buying products with little or no packaging; d) buying reusable and used products; and e) not buying anything (this also will reduce the amount of money you waste).

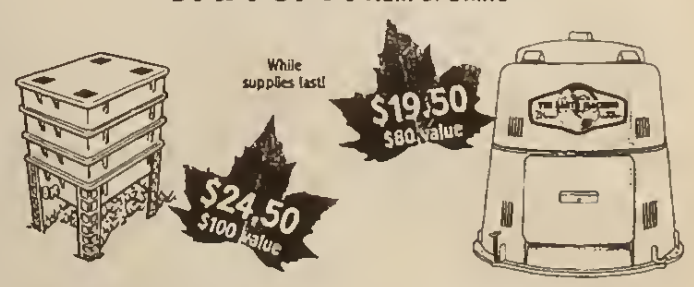
Waste Prevention Tip of the Month

Don't waste gas—and with prices they way they are today, who wants to? If you are going to let your car idle for more than one minute (and this does not include long stoplights, or bumper to bumper traffic on the freeway), save gas by turning your car off. You can save even more gas by carpooling or taking public transportation.

If you have questions or article ideas that you would like to see in coming issues, please call the San Francisco Recycling Program (415) 554-3400, e-mail sfrecycle@ci.sf.ca.us or visit our website at sfrecycle.org.

Special One Day Compost Bin Sale

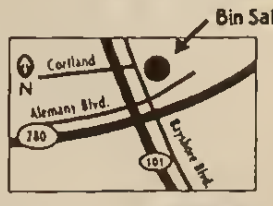
Saturday, May 13th
9AM-3PM Rain or Shine



WRIGGLY WRANCH Worm Bin
- Great for apartments and small spaces
- Fun for kids and adults
- 25" tall x 16" x 18"
- For food scraps

EARTH MACHINE Backyard Composter
- Convenient, no turning required
- Easy, snap-together assembly
- 34" tall x 38" diameter
- For food and yard trimmings

Location of Spring Compost Bin Sale: Goodman Lumber, 445 Bayshore Blvd.
- Cash, Check or VISA/Mastercard
- Offer for San Francisco residents with valid ID
- Only two bins per household (previous year buyers included)



Sponsored by: The City and County of San Francisco
sfrecycle.org (415) 554-RECYCle

Coordinated by: San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (415) 285-7585

Alternative Plans Detailed for Schlage Lock Site

From Page 1

Working with the non profit group, Urban Ecology, VISion has developed an alternative Reuse design (See Illustration) for the site to link Visitacion Valley and Little Hollywood and create a transit oriented town center in an area sorely lacking in basic amenities.

Initially, a survey was done to ascertain what residents feel is important for improving the neighborhood. Basically, the residents want a mixed use development with neighborhood serving retail, a City College extension, a new library, affordable housing, daycare and open space. With that information VISion worked with Urban Ecology's architects, transport experts, urban planners and landscape architects to create a conceptual design.

A well attended community meeting of more than 130 residents was held last October to present the design which was unanimously approved. The community recognizes that everyone in the Valley must travel by auto or public transit to shop. There is no other place in Visitacion Valley, except for Schlage Lock, to build what is needed.

The Town Center-Transit Village concept not only fulfills the needs of the immediate neighborhood, it also addresses issues that concern the entire City, such as jobs, affordable housing, job training, daycare, education, economic development and transit use. More than 800 jobs would be created as opposed to 200 with the Home Depot. This design is smart, practical and viable. Developers experienced in such projects have already expressed interest in working with the community.

Initial Study

The Initial Study of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was issued Feb. 26 with the deadline for responses on Mar. 27. Response was *overwhelmingly in favor of including* the Town Center-Transit Village alternative plan in the EIR process. More than 275 letters were sent from community members to the Planning Department expressing support. In addition there were many letters from local community groups as well as groups outside of the area, such as the Sierra Club, San Francisco Tomorrow, Outer Mission Residents Association, New Mission Terrace Improvement Association (Excelsior), Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association and so on The cities of Brisbane and Daly City and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, State Department of Transportation, and Muni Public Transportation Department also weighed in with letters of concern about traffic and other possible impacts of the Home Depot plan.

The Initial Study essentially states that an EIR is required on the Home Depot plan "to identify potential effects on the environment. Impacts on visual quality, transportation, operational air quality, operational noise and contaminated soils have been determined to be potentially significant." The status of the permit process was also changed to *Conditional Use* which means it will become **much more difficult** for Home Depot to obtain its permits.

The one critical omission was a further EIR study of Home Depot's impact on land use. This is a central factor as Home Depot's plan is in opposition to *Proposition M* which was passed by the voters several years ago to protect San Francisco neighborhoods. The site is also in an Industrial Protection Zone (IPZ) and Home Depot intends to demolish more than 575,000 square feet of industrial space and replace it with 108,000 square feet--a loss of 467,000 square feet.

The community's Reuse Plan includes space for small industrial uses, such as at the American Can Company on Third Street, which fit into IPZ requirements, as well as offering a variety of job training and job incubator opportunities. This is to say nothing of the fact that the site is in the center of a residential neighborhood which is of prime concern to its residents. Urban Ecology and VISion have addressed this in their responses which call for recognizing what is good planning and already the law.

The EIR will take some time during which it is important for the community to educate itself about the issues and support the Town Center-Transit Village as an alternative plan in the EIR process.

The Home Depot proposal is not a done deal. The impact on the neighborhood is far too enormous not to take into account the needs of its residents.

Other Pertinent Facts:

Traffic

*Two lanes on Bayshore Boulevard will be lost to the Third Street Light Rail.

*On Bayshore traffic is already backed up during rush hour in the northbound lanes to the freeway.

*New housing on San Bruno Mountain is adversely affecting traffic.

*Executive Park will be building 1.3 million square feet of space with concomitant traffic.

*Home Depot has more than 750-1000 cars per hour during peak hours.

Regional Plan

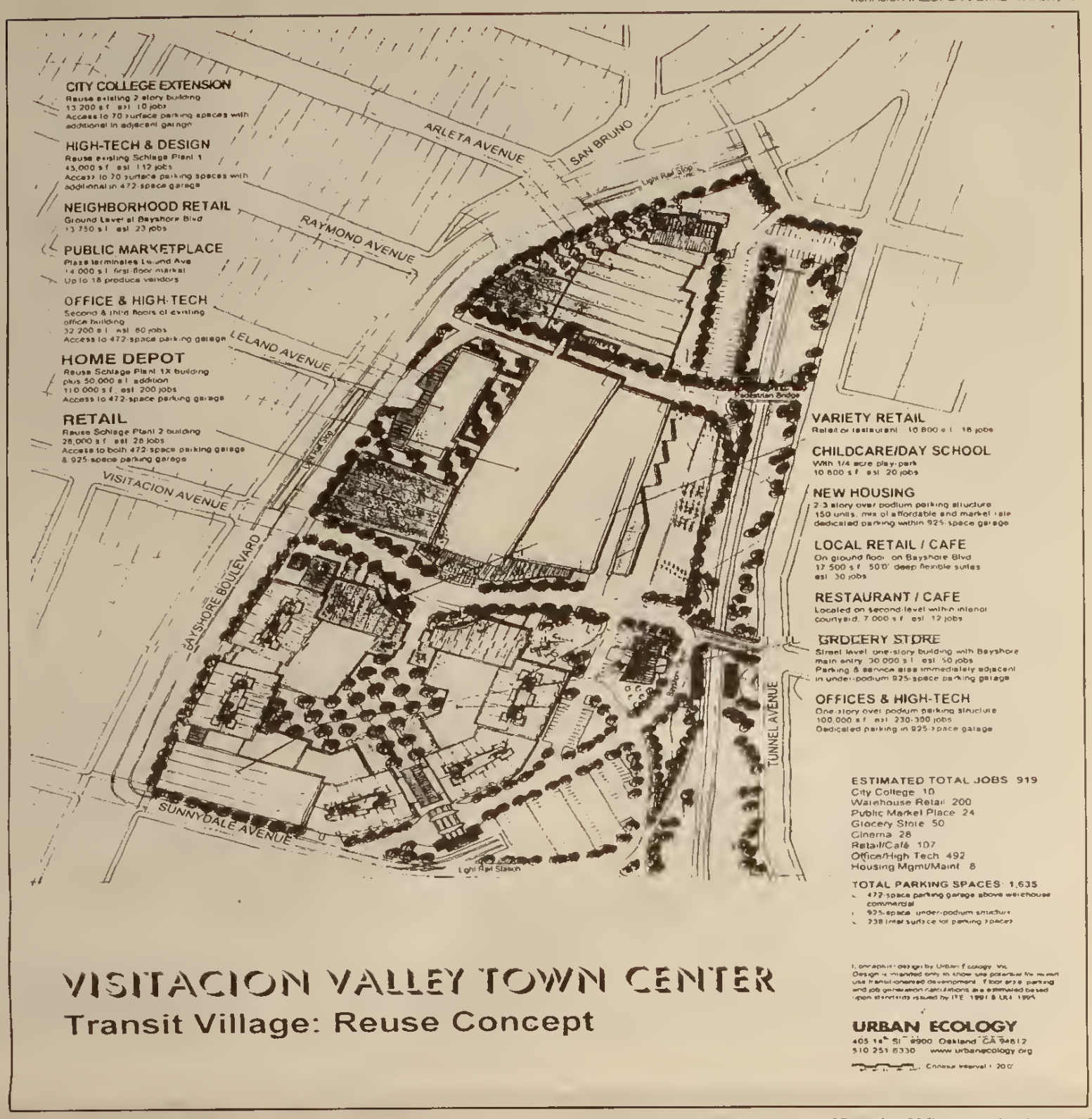
*A liasion from the Mayor's office and/or Planning Department is needed who will work with the community on a plan for Schlage Lock and the Valley as well as the entire greater Visitacion Valley Watershed, including Brisbane and Daly City.

*If Home Depot had never made a proposal, a mixed use plan would still be needed at the site.

*The neighborhood carries the burden of the Solid Waste Transfer Station, Superfund sites and the PG&E station in its backyard. It is time that Visitacion Valley got what is normal for other neighborhoods, instead of what they do not want.

Supporters

Supporters include: SPUR; Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association; San Francisco Tomorrow; New Mission Terrace Improvement Association; Sierra Club; Outer Mission Residents Association; Visitacion Valley Community Center; Barbara Jordan Democratic Club; Visitacion Valley Task Force; John W. King Senior Center; San Francisco Beautiful; Urban Ecology; Friends of McLaren Park, San Francisco Organizing Project Visitacion Valley Community Center; Bayview Hill Neighborhood Group, Visitacion Valley Asians Alliance; and El Dorado School Neighborhood Betterment Council.



Special Children Need Special Advocates

San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is actively recruiting volunteers to make a difference in the education of children with special needs. Volunteers learn how to represent exceptional children with their instructional placement, reviewing and revising their individual education programs and matters relating to a free appropriate education.

Orientation and training will be provided to volunteers who would like to commit a few hours to representing children with special educational needs. For more information, call 452-4625.

Visitacion Valley Community Center Senior Program

Funded by the S.F. Commission on the Aging

Open 365 Days a Year
Lunch Served Every Day

Senior Bingo
Holiday Celebrations
Holiday Crafts
Senior Council
Day Outings
Overnight Excursions
Reno Trips
Sewing
Blood Pressure
Ceramics
Birthday Parties
Potlucks

66 Raymond Avenue 467-4499
Pat Crocker: Director

Visitacion Valley Dental Office
Albert Kuan, D.D.S.

10 Percent Senior Discount

37 Leland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134

Monday thru Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone 239-5500 for an appointment

Cantonese Spoken

Creative CCSF Art Students to Exhibit At Fort Mason Center

San Francisco City College art students at the Fort Mason Campus are getting into business in a new way. Ceramic and sculpture students are members of a guild that has invited professional artists for lectures and demonstrations as far back as anyone can remember. Although many of the students have achieved artistic success in their own right, they continue to struggle with the business and professional ends of the art world. Now that's changing.

"Our program does not include the marketing and sales of artwork. It should," said student Vincent, while loading a bisque kiln. "Many of us have been working with ceramics and creating sculptures for years. We've developed quite a style and put out top quality work."

Other students explained that after paying for slides and photos, writing an artist's statement and approaching galleries, they find an "acrylic and oil ceiling." Galleries want to represent artists with established careers, known styles and a track record of commercial success.

"As students, we are heavily into the creative mode. We don't typically consider what is marketable when we work," said Henri, also a student in the department. "However, tons of people love our work. We need a regular opportunity to exhibit it."

"So rather than each of us hitting the pavement on our own, we're pooling our resources. We are establishing what is planned to be a quarterly exhibition," added student Leonardo while rolling out clay slabs.

"Of course, our work will be for sale but their won't be a sticker shock by the purchasers because we don't have much overhead," stated Georgia, who was building a large coiled vessel.

The idea actually came from a guest artist at the guild, a man from a small town in Italy regarded as a world champion potter. Students invited him to their studio where he gave a guest lecture and demo with a translator provided by the Italian consulate.

"After the demo he told us that the school in his town trains students in ceramic technologies which are used in industry there," mentioned Pablo while glazing. "We thought, the state of California is paying us to study pottery and sculpture at City College, and we want to support ourselves doing it. Tons of people visit the City every year for the arts. That alone suggests a market for what we make."

To obtain an affordable venue, the students have reserved exhibition space at Fort Mason. To get the word out that are using computers and the Internet for market research, e-mailing, Fax blasting, and posting to appropriate newsgroups.

"We work in three dimensions and people want to see our stuff in real life," said Frida while trimming a huge vase. "However, to build interest we will have pictures of our completed work on our website as well as pictures of us working."

In the guild there is a computer person building a marketing database and a graphic designer created the promotional pieces, while two architects completed the show design.

Once the exhibition is organized, plans call for using the existing infrastructure to show work as often as the public likes. And they're hoping people like it a lot.

"Tons of people out there like sculpture, want to own a piece or two, but shy away from galleries. Those are the people we'd like to come to our show," added student Ben, who makes electrified suspended sci-fi fish.

There is no charge to see the Mother's Day weekend exhibition appropriately titled *Slip, Chip, Wedge, Weld!!* opening Friday, May 12 from 7-10 p.m. and continuing May 13 and 14 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 210 at Marina Boulevard and Buchanan Street.

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

240 Leland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134
The Rev. Dr. Jerry O. Resus, Minister

Church School Classes: 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.
Friday Bible Fellowship: 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Choir Rehersal: 10:00 a.m.

You are cordially welcome to join us for study, worship, fellowship and service. We seek to teach the Bible and to lift up Jesus Christ so He can draw all persons to Himself.

Come to Church This Week

Two Men Injured in Sunnydale Shootings

Two men were injured Apr. 30 in shootings on Brookdale Avenue in the Sunnydale housing complex. One person was seriously injured around 8 p.m. when he was gunned down by a masked man who had forced his way into Brookdale unit.

Moments later after investigating this incident, police found another man lying in the street about a half block away with a bullet to his chest.

Ingleside Station Police Report

*On Mar. 10 at 5 p.m. on the 3300 block of San Bruno Avenue, Ingleside officers responded and found 16 empty wine bottles a 5 lb. container of gasoline, three crates of mustard gas, fireworks, and a bullet resistant vest. The bomb squad seized the items to analyze the contents. The owner of the materials was already in jail on unrelated charges. Case 000228406

*On Apr. 13 at 9:41 a.m. on the unit block of Leland Avenue, Ingleside officers observed five males drinking alcoholic beverages from open containers. After the officers determined the true identity of these men the officers discovered that all five had warrants for there arrest. All were taken into custody and booked at Ingleside Station. Case 000442656.

*On Apr 14 at 8 48 a.m., an Ingleside foot beet officer responded to the 3200 block of Mission Street on a report of a commercial robbery with a gun. The victim reported two latin males entered his store when one of them produced a gun and demanded all the money from the register. The victim complied and was then told to walk to the bathroom. The victim ran out of the front door and told a witness what was happening. The suspects were seen running to a parked brown van on 29th Street and were seen driving away north on San Jose Avenue. Case 000447703.

*On Apr 14 at 10:33 a.m. on Cayuga Street at Tingley Street the victim said that the suspect walked up to her, grabbed her purse, then fled into a waiting vehicle. The suspect was described as a black male in his 20s and fled in a green station wagon. Case 000448018

*On Apr 15, Ingleside officers took eight police reports from victims of tire slashings. The unknown suspect vandalized the vehicles around Holly Park Circle, Highland Street, and Leese Street and committed these acts sometime between 3 and 8:30 a.m. Case 001061000.

*On Apr 19 at 7:33 a.m., officers responded to the 900 block of Ellsworth Street where they took a suspect into custody for robbery, terrorist threats, and a parole violation. The female victim, who was a neighbor of the suspect, reported that the suspect took three dollars from her hand and when she demanded it back he pushed her then threatened her unborn child. Case 000468210.

Free Appliance Repair Tips

(NAPS) Appliances often require maintenance and repair, but frequently homeowners avoid the issue until the appliances stop working completely. The experts at RepairClinic.com suggest taking care of your appliances now to avoid costly future repairs. The web site, www.repairclinic.com, offers free appliance repair tips, maintenance suggestions and troubleshooting information to help you do-it-yourself. Plus, PartDetective can help you identify the specific part you need for a repair. Parts can be ordered right from your computer and most can be delivered overnight.

A few useful tips:

*To keep your refrigerator cooling properly, clean the condenser coils at least once a year, using a specially made condenser brush and your vacuum cleaner.

*To prevent major washing machine leaks, replace the rubber inlet hoses on your washing machine every five years.

*Replace the burner bowls and knobs on your stove to protect the inside of the stove, and give the stove a fresh, clean look.

*Repair rusting dishwasher racks before the metal flakes ruin the motor seals. Patching kits are available to simplify this project. If the rack is not repairable, replace it to avoid future, more costly repairs.

*Clean the interior of your microwave regularly. Food particles and splatter absorb energy while the unit is operating and can cause burns and other damage to the microwave.

For more helpful information about home appliance care, or to order a part, visit the web site at www.repairclinic.com.

Cathy Kline Saunders
Lifetime Senior Marketing Consultant
Broker Associate

CAMERON-JONES REALTORS,® INC.

For Any of Your Real Estate Needs Call Me
(415) 334-0800 (Office)
(451) 276-9160

2566 OCEAN AVENUE at 19th
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

From the DA's Office

Suit Settled for Unfair Business Practices

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan, along with Attorney General Bdl Lockyer and the district attorneys of Alameda and Los Angeles, on Mar 10 announced the settlement of a consumer protection lawsuit against Hy Cite Corporation, whose distributors allegedly used deceptive advertising and unfair business practices in selling Royal Prestige cookware and water filtration products.

In the settlement, the Wisconsin-based company agreed to offer full refunds to the approximately 400 consumers named in the judgement and to pay $250,000 in civil penalties and costs. The judgement issued by San Francisco Supreme Court Judge Alfred Chiantelli also prohibits Hy Cite, its employees and agents from engaging in misleading sales representations about the health benefits of the company's cookware and water filtration products. In reaching the settlement, the company did not admit to any wrongdoing. Under the judgement, the company and its agents are required to make substantial changes in their sales contracts to remove deceptive or confusing terms. The company and agents also must state clearly the consumer's right to cancel a purchase within three days and have in place procedures to fulfill the customer's cancellation request.

The settlement comes in a joint complaint filed in February 1999. In the case, Hallinan, Lockyer, Alameda County District Attorney Thomas Orloff and Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti sought to have Hy Cite halt deceptive business practices, provide full restitution for victims and pay civil penalties.

The consumer complaint alleged that the company and local distributors had been targeting the Hispanic community, using high-pressure door-to-door sales tactics to get customers to buy expensive pots and pans and water filtration devices. The complaint alleged the salespeople in lengthy in-home presentations promoted Royal Prestige products as a "health system" that could prevent health problems including cancer, high blood pressure and high cholesterol--without a scientific basis.

To sell water filtration devices, Royal Prestige salespeople allegedly told customers that their water supply was contaminated with lead, acid rain and other environmental hazards, and used a phony chemical test to support baseless claims. The complaint also alleged that consumers were not notified appropriately about their right to cancel the home solicitation contract within three days of the purchase, and were presented with confusing sales agreements that failed to clearly and conspicuously disclose that an interest rate of 21 percent would be charged in the purchase was financed.

Contractor Charged with Illegal Asbestos Disposal

A painting contractor who exposed his crew and passersby to asbestos dust has been charged by District Attorney Hallinan's office with three environmental felonies and two Labor Code misdemeanors.

Peter Tripousis, VIP Painters, was hired in May, 1999 to remove asbestos shingles from a residential/commercial building on 16th Street near Guerrero, according to court documents. Tripousis allegedly hired a crew of day laborers are directed them to remove more than 5,000 square feet of asbestos shingles from the building's exterior. The workers were not provided with protective equipment.

Neighbor's complaints to Cal-OSHA led to an investigation revealing that shingles were being removed to an open debris box and that the sidewalk was littered with asbestos-laden debris. Samples were found to contain 15 to 30 percent friable asbestos (According to California hazardous waste laws, asbestos is considered toxic if more than 1.0 percent to the material is in a friable, powdered or finely divided state.)

The felony charge for unlawful disposal of hazardous waste carries a maximum punishment of three years imprisonment in state prison and a $100,000 fine. The misdemeanor charges carry a maximum punishment of six months in jail and a $5,000 fine.

Tripousis surrendered Mar. 14 and was released on bail.

Tourist's Testimony Helps Convict Carjacker

A jury on Mar. 14 found a San Francisco man, Marlon Morris, 31, guilty of carjacking and two robberies stemming from a three-day crime spree in March 1999.

Morris was convicted or carjacking the automobile of Carlos Aviles, 29, from a SOMA parking lot on Mar. 13, 1999; with a robbery the next day of Annie Chan, 28 (in which he held a knife to her temple); and with a second robbery Mar. 14 of Marie-Therese Bianco, a resident of Paris who was staying with a friend in the Outer Mission while visiting the City.

Morris was arrested Mar. 23 near Tehama and 6th streets, asleep in the car taken from Aviles.

Bianco was flown back to San Francisco by the District Attorney's office to testify. She identified Morris as the man who had grabbed her purse as she emerged from her friend's house on Fairmount Street. Bianco chased the robber to his waiting car. As she attempted to regain her purse, he drove off--dragging her until she was thrown from the vehicle and briefly rendered unconscious.

Aviles and Chan also identified Morris from the witness stand as their assailant.

The jury rejected Morris's defense that all three victims had misidentified him. He faces a prison term of up to 27 years. He will be sentenced June 5.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Gordon commented, "Whether victims are local or foreign, our office will charge and jurors will convict in serious cases with serious evidence. This was such a case."

Woman Charged with Con of Elderly Man

The tables were turned on a woman who walked into the Taraval Police Station in the early hours of Mar. 14 to make a complaint about an individual in another state who was allegedly threatening her. She was arrested on charges the she had Bilked an elderly San Francisco man.

Shirley Thompson, AKA Shirley Thomas, AKA Kay Ann Donza, 45, has been charged with two counts of conspiracy, grand theft, and elder financial abuse. Her alleged partner, William Uanno, AKA William Vanno, AKA Freddie Canadian, 49, remains a fugitive. Anyone having information on his whereabouts should call the San Francisco Police Department at (415) 553-1234.

Thompson was arraigned Mar. 14 and is currently free on $100,000 bail. Court documents reveal that she befriended a 76-year-old dementia patient on a downtown street in February 1998. She introduced him to Uanno, who she said was her cousin. Between Feb. 24 and Mar. 18, 1998, Thompson and Uanno convinced the elderly man to turn over more than $97,000 from his bank accounts to them. The scheme was interrupted when a bank employee became suspicious that Thompson had taken the elderly man to a bank in Burlingame to withdraw another $5,000 from his account. Police summoned to the bank determined that the man did not know what had been done with the money he had previously given to Thompson. His accounts were frozen and conservatorship proceedings begun by his banks, which have assumed management of his financial affairs.

Arrest warrants were issued Mar. 2 of this year after a joint investigation by Sgt. Robert Bronson of the SFPD Fraud Detail and the Elder Financial Abuse Unit of the District Attorney's Special Operations Division. Thompson and Uanno, both of whom had prior felony convictions according to court records, face sentences of six and five years in state prison, respectively, in convicted.

"Unfortunately, crimes against the elderly are increasing throughout our society," said District Attorney Hallinan. "I have made the investigation and prosecution of such crimes a top priority of my second term in office."

Hallinan praised "the cooperative efforts of my own elder financial abuse team and the police department's new team."

Guilty Verdict in Sexual Assault Case

A San Francisco jury on Mar 21 found Kenneth Phelon, 28, guilty of kidnap with intent to rape, assault with intent to rape, aggravated assault, terrorist threats, and causing great bodily injury, stemming from a September 1997 attack outside Club X at Third and Harrison streets.

The victim, who was 20 at the time of the assault, had been a patron at the club. Feeling ill, she had exited the club and was resting on the curb by her car. Phelon half-carried her around the corner to a budding where he had an apartment. In the stairwell he punched her repeatedly in the face and pulled off her panties.

The half-naked victim was observed lying in the stairwell by a security guard, Jerry Davis, 43. Phelon claimed she was his girlfriend and Davis moved on. Phelon them punched the victim one more time and went back to his room to change clothes. (The victim, in her terror, had soiled herself.)

The victim was able to stagger back towards the club and escape further harm. Phelon was arrested a half-hour later in his apartment.

The trial in San Francisco Superior Court began Mar 14 with Judge John Conway presiding. The victim was the key witness. Phelon claimed that she had been beaten before he encountered her, that she consented to go with him to his apartment, and that she had fallen down the stairs. The jury took 4-1/2 hours to find for the prosecution.

On Apr. 19, Judge John Conway sentenced Phelon to 11 years in state prison and ordered him to register as a sex offender.

Conviction for Assault And False Imprisonment

Johnny Travis, 41 was convicted Mar. 21 of felony false imprisonment and misdemeanor assault. On Dec. 7, 1999, a woman who had been his girlfriend reported that Travis held her against her will in his 6th Street apartment, raped her and beat her up. The rape charge could not be proven because there were no vaginal injuries, just her word against his. The victim's credibility was diminished somewhat by a belated admission that she and her assailant had been smoking crack.

Man Found Guilty of Second Degree Murder

A San Francisco jury on Mar. 28 found Jorge Gonzales, 28 guilty of second-degree murder in the Dec. 6, 1997 shooting of Nelson Claros Espinoza, who was 27 at the time of his death. The shooting took place in the Cala Foods parking lot on South Van Ness between 23rd and 24th streets in the Mission.

Gonzales was also found guilty of assault with a firearm for threatening Espinoza's friend Rene Morales, 32.

According to testimony in the week-long trial presided over by Judge Richard Kramer, Espinoza and Morales had been drinking beer with two other young men when Gonzales and two of his friends pulled up in a van. Gonzales made a derogatory remark as he got out. He and Espinoza approached each other. Gonzales pulled out a .9mm pistol and fired one shot, which hit Espinoza in the chest, penetrating both lungs.

Gonzales pointed to gun at Morales, who had asked, "Why did you shoot my friend?" Gonzales then picked up the shell casing--which presumably carried his fingerprints--and fled.

The entire confrontation may have taken a minute, according to the witnesses. Espinoza died at the scene.

Gonzales was not apprehended until Feb. 5, 1999, when he was stopped for a traffic violation on Market Street.

Morales and Wilbur Vasquez, another friend of the victim, testified that Espinoza never threatened or swung at Gonzales--refuting Gonzales's claim of self-defense. Assistant District Attorney Braden Woods argued, "It's inconsistent with self-defense to pick up the shell casing after you've shot somebody."

Gonzales faces 20 years to life in state prison.

Antidepressant Not A Significant Risk During Newborn Period

(NAPS) Results published in a recent issue of the European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology provide reassuring new information regarding the safety of antidepressants in pregnant women.

The large study reports on the effect of a class of antidepressant medicines called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and non-SSRI antidepressants in early pregnancy as recorded in the Swedish Medical Birth Registry from 1995 to 1997. The authors found that the antidepressant most commonly used was the SSRI Celexa¿ (citalopram HBr), and that use of antidepressants did not carry significant risk for the infant during the newborn period.

"Depression affects as many as one out of every four women of child bearing age. And considering that antidepressants, especially SSRIs, are among the most widely used medicines in the world--these data should be extremely important to American women and the health care providers who treat them," said Lori Altshuler, MD, professor and director of the mood disorders research program at UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute.

"Untreated depression during pregnancy poses potential risks to mother and fetus," Dr. Altshuler continued. The risks associated with untreated depression in pregnancy include drug, alcohol and tobacco use, poor self-care and nutrition, and suicide.

In the two years in which medication use during early pregnancy was prospectively analyzed, 281,728 births were recorded in the registry, which contains information on practically all births in Sweden.

Based on the review of the database, use of antidepressants in early pregnancy did not carry any significant risk for the infant. The lack of negative effects was found among all drug types, and the drug that was most often represented was Celexa. Among 533 infants only exposed to SSRIs, 377 (71 percent) were exposed to Celexa.

Introduced in the United States by Forest Laboratories in September 1998, Celexa quickly became the fastest-growing SSRI, generating more new prescriptions than any previously launched product in the antidepressant market. Celexa has captured more than nine-percent share of the category in its first year in the U.S. Celexa was developed by the Danish pharmaceutical firm, H. Lundbeck A/S, and is the top-selling antidepressant in eight European countries.

Celexa has been proven effective and very well tolerated in clinical trials involving more than 23,000 Celexa-treated patients, as well as by a decade of clinical use during which more than 12 million people in 65 countries have been treated with Celexa.

Among Celexa-treated patients in clinical trials reporting side effects, those most frequently reported were nausea, dry mouth, and sleepiness. As with all SSRIs, Celexa should not be taken together with monoamine oxidase inhibitors. As with all SSRIs, Celexa should be used in pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. Full prescribing information about Celexa can be found on the Internet at www.celexa.com.

Engineering Achievements

(NAPS) What was the greatest engineering achievement of the 20th Century? The answer, according to the National Academy of Engineering, is the vast network of electricity that powers the world.

A panel of experts recently met to come up with a list of the achievements that have made the greatest contribution to quality of life in the past 100 years. The top 20 were announced during National Engineers Week by the first person on the moon, engineer Neil Armstrong.

Top vote-getters included the automobile, the airplane and the purification of drinking water, which has helped eliminate disease and increase life expectancy.

"The evolution of popular culture, politics, and business, has given us a world that is vastly different than that of our grandparents. Engineering has played a significant role in these changes, so we decided to take a focused look at the impact of engineering on the 20th century," said Armstrong.

Radio and television were ranked sixth, the computer came in eighth and the Internet placed 13th. Armstrong's field of space exploration was ranked 12th, and America's interstate highway system placed 11th.

To learn more about these engineering achievements, and National Engineers Week, visit the website at www.greatachieve ments.org or www.eweek.org.

HealthTech

Training You for a Career in Health Technology

What job tracks are available?
Emergency Medical Technician; Health Information Technician; EKG Assistant, Nursing Assistant; Personal Care Assistant; Home Health Aide, Unit Coordinator; and others also available.

Are good paying jobs available?
The job placement rate is 90 percent or better. Many jobs are waiting to be filled – Kaiser at South San Francisco has 45 positions open for Personal Care Assistants paying $14.70 an hour plus benefits. Starting pay is up to $16 an hour plus benefits.

Where and when is the training?
Classes will begin June 2000 at The Village, 333 Schwerin St. in Visitacion Valley and last for 11 weeks. After this, transportation will be provided to a City College campus where only one semester is needed to become certified in one of the careers listed above.

What is the time commitment?
During the summer the full curriculum is 40 hours per week. There is the possibility of flexibility to accommodate individual needs. In the fall, studies can be part-time.

What is the cost?
The program is free.

Why choose HealthTech?
HealthTech provides skills and support to help you succeed in the classroom and on the job. You will have the opportunity to job-shadow people already in each field to discover what career path is best for you. You will receive paid work training starting in the fall. HealthTech provides help in finding a job.

How do I find out more?
Call Vernon Long at (415) 239-0174 and leave your name and phone number. You can also leave a voice mail message at (415) 273-1172. All orientation meetings will begin at 4 p.m. in The Village at VVJET on Wednesday, May 10; Thursday, May 18; and Thursday, May 25.

Grapevine Puzzler — Seas of the World

B	A	S	D	F	A	D	F	F	L	U	G	N	A	I	S	R	E	P	S
L	O	S	D	F	E	G	H	J	K	A	U	G	H	R	G	D	A	E	E
A	M	T	C	X	S	V	N	F	D	E	L	N	D	I	D	F	A	S	A
C	E	C	H	C	N	J	A	A	F	G	F	A	S	S	F	O	D	F	O
K	D	V	U	N	A	A	E	E	H	E	O	E	X	H	F	F	G	K	F
S	I	C	D	V	I	V	C	S	K	A	F	C	C	S	D	S	H	A	J
E	T	Y	S	V	P	A	O	C	I	N	M	O	V	E	F	O	D	R	A
A	E	A	O	C	S	S	C	I	Y	S	E	N	G	A	T	U	N	C	P
B	R	C	N	C	A	E	I	T	T	E	X	A	T	S	F	T	A	T	A
V	R	S	B	A	C	A	F	L	F	A	I	I	K	Y	D	H	E	I	N
C	A	I	A	E	A	C	I	A	D	T	C	D	Y	T	A	C	C	C	A
X	N	B	Y	S	E	A	C	B	T	T	O	N	Y	B	E	H	O	O	N
Z	E	F	C	C	S	E	A	S	T	C	H	I	N	A	S	I	C	C	D
F	A	O	X	I	W	S	P	X	R	T	G	R	E	L	S	N	I	E	A
H	N	Y	C	T	O	G	U	L	F	O	F	D	A	T	E	A	T	A	M
F	X	A	B	A	L	N	X	V	E	D	X	C	E	I	B	F	N	N	A
S	C	B	N	I	L	I	C	B	D	S	V	X	S	C	E	D	A	D	N

Aegean Sea
Adriatic Sea
Andaman Sea
Arctic Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Baltic Sea
Bay of Biscay
Bering Sea
Black Sea
Caribbean Sea
Caspian Sea
Celebes Sea
East China Sea
Gulf of Bothnia
Gulf of Mexico
Hudson Bay
Indian Ocean
Irish Sea
Java Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Pacific Ocean
Persian Gulf
Red Sea
Sea of Japan
Sea of Okhotsk
South China Sea
Yellow Sea

Historic Proportions

Match clues to answers.

1988

1 Winter Olympics opened here on Feb. 12.
2. Olympic Games opened here Sept. 17.
3 On Sept. 29 and after 32 months, this was again launched.
4. Panamanian leader was indicted Feb. 5 by U.S. on drug snuggling charges.
5. Horrible inferno here claimed thousands of acres.
6. Powerful hurricane damaged parts of Jamaica and Mexico.
7 Devastating earthquake here on Dec. 7 killed thousands.
8. They won Super Bowl XXII on Jan. 31
9. World Series winners on Oct. 20.
10. Crash of 747 on Dec 21 made this town in Scotland known around the world
11 He was elected President on Nov 8.
12 First night baseball game was played here Aug 8
13 Movie won nine Oscars at Academy Awards on Apr. 11
14 Yankee manager was fired June 23 for the fifth time
15 Minister confessed to world Feb. 21 after exposed encounters with a prostitute.
16. Puppet-like creature was huge hit on prime-time television.
17. They won the NBA title on June 20.
18. FDA approved hair treatment on Aug. 17.

A. ALF
B. Lockerbie
C. Wrigley Field
D George Bush
E. Jimmy Swaggart
F. Rogaine
G. Los Angeles Lakers
H. The Last Emperor
I. Yellowstone Park
J. Armenia
K. Space shuttle
L. Seoul
M Gilbert
N Manuel Noriega
O. Los Angeles Dodgers
P Washington Redskins
Q. Calgary
R. Billy Martin

Answers: 1-Q; 2-L; 3-K; 4-N; 5-I; 6-M; 7-J; 8-P; 9-O; 10-B; 11-D; 12-C; 13-H; 14-R; 15-E; 16-A; 17-G; 18-F

Sez Who?

Match quotes to speakers.

1. "To be great is to be misunderstood."
2. "Remove your pants before resorting to violence."
3. "To live outside the law, you must be honest."
4 "The meek shall inherit the earth but not the mineral rights."
5. "Managing is getting paid for home runs someone else hits."
6. "It is all right to rat, but you can't re-rat."
7. "Fashions, after all, are only induced epidemics."
8. "Horse sense is a good judgment which keeps horses from betting on people."
9 "To err is human, not to, animal."

A. Casey Stengel
B. Ralph Waldo Emerson
C. Winston Churchill
D. W.C. Fields
E. Robert Frost
F. George Bernard Shaw
G. Yoko Ono
H. J. Paul Getty
I. Bob Dylan

Answers: 1-B; 2-G; 3-I; 4-H; 5-A; 6-C; 7-F; 8-D; 9-E

Grapevine Online

Visit the Grapevine's website at: http://home.earthlink.net/~visvalley for past news stories, local history and a complete business directory.

Five Years Ago In the Grapevine

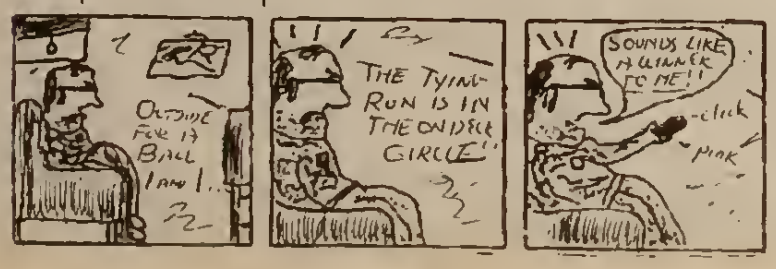
MAY 1995

*Residents of both Little Hollywood and Visitacion Valley took turns stepping up to the podium Apr. 18 to unanimously oppose the proposed expansion of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility on Tunnel Avenue during a meeting to review its draft Environmental Impact Report at the Visitacion Valley Community Center.

*For the first time in its 11 year history, it was announced that the Visitacion Valley Festival would take place on Leland Avenue between Bayshore Boulevard and Schwerin Street.

*Members of the former Wilson Warriors baseball team reunited one year after the school's reconstitution scattered the team's players to other San Francisco high schools.

Sump, the Grump



Mommyisms

1 Motherhood: If it was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor!

2. Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car, and you get about the same results.

3. To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today.

4 The smartest advice on raising children is to enjoy them while they are still on your side.

5. Avenge yourself--Live long enough to be a problem to your children.

6. The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere, (and to let the air out of the tires).

7 The right temperature in a home is maintained by warm hearts, not by hot heads.

8. Raising a teenager is like nailing Jell-O to a tree

9. Parents: People who bare infants, bore teenagers, and board newlyweds.

10. The joy of motherhood: What a woman experiences when all the children are finally in bed

11. Life's golden age is when the kids are too old to need baby-sitters and too young to borrow the family car

12. Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

13 Grandparents are similar to a piece of string--handy to have around and easily wrapped around the fingers of grandchildren

14 A child outgrows your lap, but never outgrows your heart

15. God gave you two ears and one mouth... so you should listen twice as much as you talk.

16. There are three ways to get something done: Do it yourself, hire someone to do it, or forbid your children to do it.

17. Adolescence is the age when children try to bring up their parents.

18. You know the only people in this world who are always sure about the proper way to raise children? Those who've never had any.

19. Cleaning your house while your kids are at home is like trying to shovel the driveway during a snowstorm.

20. Oh to be only half as wonderful as my child thought I was when he was small, and half as stupid as my teenager now thinks I am.

21. There are only two things a child will share willingly: communicable diseases and his mother's age.

22 Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

23 Adolescence is the age at which children stop asking questions because they know all the answers

24. An alarm clock is a device for awakening people who don't have small children.

25. How do you cope when the apple of your eye becomes a bone in your throat?

26. No wonder kids are confused today. Half the adults tell them to find themselves; the other half tell them to get lost.

Not a Designated Driver

-A Satire

A Highway Patrolman waited outside a popular bar, hoping for a bust. At closing time everyone came out and he spotted his potential quarry. The man was so obviously inebriated that he could barely walk. He stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, looking for his car

After trying his keys on five other cars, he finally found his own vehicle. He sat in the car a good ten minutes, as the other patrons left. He turned his lights on, then off, wipers on, then off. He started to pull forward into the grass, then stopped.

Finally, when he was the last car, he pulled out onto the road and started to drive away. The patrolman, waiting for this, turned on his lights and pulled the man over. He administered the breathalyzer test, and to his great surprise, the man blew a 0.00. The patrolman was dumbfounded.

"This equipment must be broken!" he exclaimed.

"I doubt it," said the man, "Tonight I am the designated decoy"

Things I've Learned from My Children

Following are tips coming from an anonymous parent in Austin, Texas.

*A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 square-foot house four inches deep.

*If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with rollerblades, they can ignite

*A 3 year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.

*If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 pound boy wearing Batman underwear and a superman cape. It is strong enough, however, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20-by-20 foot room.

*You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on.

*When using the ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.

*The glass in windows (even double pane) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan

*When you hear the toilet flush and the words "uh-oh," it's already too late.

*Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.

*A six-year-old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year-old man says they can only do it in the movies.

*A magnifying glass can start a fire even on an overcast day.

*Certain Legos will pass through the digestive tract of a four-year-old.

*PlayDough and Microwave should never be used in the same sentence.

*Super glue is forever

*No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.

*Pool filters do not like Jell-O

*VCR's do not eject PB&J sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do

*Garbage bags do not make good parachutes

*Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.

*You probably do not want to know what that odor is.

*Always look in the oven before you turn it on. Plastic toys do not like ovens.

*The fire department in Austin has a 5-minute response time.

*The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earth worms dizzy.

*It will however make cats dizzy. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.

Kids' Instructions on Life

"Never trust a dog to watch your food." -Patrick, Age 10

"When you want something expensive, ask your grandparents." -Matthew, Age 12

"Never smart off to a teacher whose eyes and ears are twitching." -Andrew, Age 9

"Wear a hat when feeding seagulls." -Rocky, Age 9

"Sleep in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning." -Stephanie, Age 8

"Never try to hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk." -Rosemary, Age 7

"Don't flush the john when your dad's in the shower." -Lamar, Age 10

"Never ask for anything that costs more than five dollars when your parents are doing taxes." -Carrol, Age 9

"Never bug a pregnant mom" -Nicholas, Age 11

"Don't ever he too full for dessert" -Kelly, Age 10

"When your dad is mad and asks you, 'Do I look stupid?' don't answer him." -Heather, Age 16

"Never tell your mom her diet's not working." -Michael, Age 14

"Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat" -Joel. Age 12

"When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone" -Alyesha, Age 13

"The two places you can always feel safe is church and your grandma's." -Becky, Age 8

Safe Natural Remedies

(NAPS) A fascinating new book by a physician and medical researcher shows readers the most safe natural remedies for a wide range of illnesses. The book, Dr. Cass Ingram's *Lifesaving Cures* (Knowledge House, $19.95) documents which natural substances work quickly, safely, and reliably for reversing common illnesses and injuries.

"Lifesaving Cures has saved my life and the lives of my friends," said Dr. Cass Ingram. "Simple, inexpensive things like raw honey, garlic, onions are very powerful cures. Also trust more sophisticated cures like oil of oregano. I guarantee it."

Among the natural cures that will help readers in the event of a natural disaster that makes health care unavailable are:

*The most effective self-remedies for infections, in case the antibiotics fail.

*The most valuable cures for healing wounds.

*The most powerful substances for producing strength and energy.

*Foods which offer the greatest fuel and energy power. *The most useful anti-pain, self-remedies.

*Natural cures for combating burns.

*The best remedies for combating the stress and pressure that occur during difficulties. or as a result of injury.

In his book, Dr. Ingram describes natural remedies that cure diseases ranging from back pain to athlete s foot and angina to bladder infections. Did you know that sage oil can be freely used topically on wounds, skin irritations and burns, and also makes an excellent gargle for sore throats? Or, that in England honey is used in burn wards? It is applied because it dependably sterilizes the wound, speeds healing and minimizes scarring.

Lifesaving Cures is available at bookstores or by calling 1-800-243-5242.

How to Take Control Of Any Situation

(NAPS) Some people have it all. They get what they want and life just seems to go their way. They're respected and admired and everyone wants to be around them. If you've ever wanted to bottle what these people have, then get your glass ready, because now you can.

In life, some people have it and some people don't! If you want "It," you'll love a revolutionary new book called *Get Anyone to Do Anything and Never Feel Powerless Again*. World-renowned behaviorist and New York Times bestselling author, Dr. David J. Lieberman, delivers a book of psychological secrets to give readers the ability to gain control and influence anyone in any situation.

Utilizing the latest advancements in human behavior, this revolutionary book explains step-by-step how to make life and people go your way. Cutting edge research offers fascinating facts such as:(1) Gazing into a person's eyes can actually make the individual fall in love with you. (2) A person who is bluffing will always pretend to be overconfident in his position. (3) You can always tell how nervous someone is by watching how he breathes.

With this book readers use psychological principles and learn advantageous techniques including:

*Get anyone to forgive you for anything.

*Edge-out the competition, for job interviews, dates and in games.

*Get anyone to confess any secret to you.

*Get anyone to return your call with a single magic phrase.

*Stop verbal abuse in an instant.

*Get anyone to find you attractive.

*Stop jealous behavior in anyone in less than 30 seconds.

*Get anyone to stop taking you for granted.

Techniques developed by Dr. Lieberman have led to groundbreaking advancements in numerous fields and are in use by governments, corporations and professionals in more than 25 countries. *Get Anyone To Do Anything and Never Feel Powerless Again* (St. Martin's Press) is available at your local bookstore.

Your Horoscope - June 2000

by Pat Crocker

Capricorn. Hey, Cap, summer is gonna be fun. It's been a slow start but the year improves, starting now. Pamper yourself. Spend a few extra dollars on you!

Aquarius The stars are aligned just right for you...lighten up. Enjoy yourself. Stop worrying about what other people think of you. Dance like no one can see you!

Pisces: You love the sunshine. You love the water. Have a picnic by the sea and think of all the good you do in this world. Don't be so hard on yourself

Aries: Make a list of all the people you have forgiven lately. Be careful Some people need to be forgotten, not forgiven. Don't be a door mat, Aries

Taurus. Felt tired lately? Hiding something can become exhausting. The stars give you the opportunity to clear the air This is the perfect time to get something off your chest.

Gemini. You can't decide which way to go these days. Make a list with two columns. .pro and con. The list with the most positive is the way to go. Good luck.

Cancer: You've been cooped up in your home too much lately. Get out--call friends. Become more sociable. Remember, the phone works both ways Mingle more.

Leo: A relationship that has been on the skids for a long time can be repaired, Make the first move. Try not to he so sensitive. They are sorry, too.

Virgo. Someone who admires your talents wants to help you succeed. Looks like a career/job change is in store for you--if you really want it. Go after it.

Libra: Jealousy is a waste of time. Back off and concentrate on your own life. Choose positive people to hang out with. Be with people who enrich your life, not drain you.

Scorpio: Have a positive outlook on things, Scorp. Be extra patient right now. Someone needs you these days-- be there for them. You will both benefit

Sagittarius: Organize your finances. Money is not one of your biggest concerns, but watch your pennies right now Put a little away for a "rainy day." This is not a good time for you to go to Reno.

Gripping Story of Murder, Love and Redemption

(NAPS) It can happen to any family. A loved one is put in jail. It happened to Victor Clark, a winner of the Bronze Star and a Vietnam War hero. Clark was sentenced to life in prison for a brutal murder he swears he didn't commit. He is also the subject of a fascinating new book, Concurrent Sentences (New Horizon Press, 24 95) by Denise Beck-Clark.

The story is told by Beck-Clark, who received a poignant, intelligently written letter in response to the personal ad she had placed. The return address on the envelope was the Eastern New York Correction Facility.

Drawn to the gentle, kindhearted man, cloaked beneath years of isolation and brutality, Denise began writing to and visiting Clark

Determined to uncover the truth about what really happened twenty years before to doom Clark to his fate, Denise began studying trial transcripts and legal documents She championed Clark's cause to legislators, advocates and the parole board

Concurrent Sentences tells her remarkable story. To order call (800) 533-7978, Ext. 103 or visit www newhorizonpressbooks.com.

May 2000

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

S.F. City Meetings

Aging 1st Wed 9 30a, Airport 1st & 3rd Tu 3p, Arts 1st Mon 3p, Education 2nd/4th Tu 7p, Health 1st/3rd Tu 3p, Housing Auth 2nd/4th Th 4p, Human Rights 1st/3rd Th 4 30p, Library 1st Tu 5 30p, Planning Th 1 30p, Police Wed 5 30p, Port 1st Tu/3rd Wed 4 30p, Public Utilities 2nd/4th Tu 2p, Rec and Park 3rd Th 2p, Social Services 4th Th 9a, Status Women 4th Th 4p, SF Supervisors Mon 2p

Visitacion Valley Community Center

Mondays: Senior Shopping 11 30 a m., **Tuesdays:** Senior Ceramics 9 30 a.m -4 p m., Senior Bingo 12 30 p m , **Thursdays:** Sewing Class 9 a.m -3 p m **USDA Food Distribution Day** is last Thursday of every month

San Francisco City Services

ABANDONED CARS	781-JUNK
ANIMAL CONTROL	554-6364
BUS SHELTER DAMAGE	882-4949
CITY TREES (trimming)	695-2162
CRIME-STOPPERS (anonymous)	1-800-2GIVEINFO
DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE	864-4722
DPW (days) 695-2017, (nights/weekends)	695-2020
EMERGENCY SERVICES	9-1-1
EMERGENCY SERVICES (cell-phone)	553-8090
GARBAGE SERVICE COMPLAINTS	255-3610
GRAFFITI CLEANUP (DPW)	241-WASH
GRAFFITI SUSPECT INFO	553-1603
INGLESIDE STATION (Anonymous 333-3433)	553-1603
LELAND AVENUE RESOURCE CENTER	586-2675
MAYOR'S OFFICE	554-7111
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES	554-6110
NARCOTICS TIP LINE (anonymous)	1-800-CRACKIT
PARKING AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS (DPT)	553-1200
POLICE (non-emergency)	553-0123
POTHOLE REPAIR	695-2100
SAFE (neighborhood watch groups)	673-SAFE
STREET LIGHTING CITY (out of order)	554-0730
STREET LIGHTING PG&E (wood poles)	693-3201
SUNNYDALE RESOURCE CENTER	586-7572
TRAFFIC SIGNALS (out of order)	550-2736
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	554-2300
VVMS ANNONYMOUS HOTLINE	281-8406

Could Laughter Be The Best Medicine?

(NAPS) Did you hear the one about the cable channel and the medical center?

There's no punchline, only the promise of greater happiness for seriously ill children and adults. As part of Comedy Central's continuing pro-social programs, the network has provided a $75,000 research grant to the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center to study how to most effectively use humor to reduce pain and prevent disease

The five-year study, called *Rx Laughter*, will include participants of all ages, cultural background and socio-economic groups. Using carefully selected cartoons, Comedy Central programming and classic films--featuring Abbott and Costello, the Marx Brothers, Charlie Chaplin, etc.--the study will be comprised of three elements: research, health education and therapeutic entertainment.

The goal is to further the knowledge about the relationship between humor and health, and in using this knowledge in the treatment of people with both serious and minor illnesses.

The research element will attempt to verify that laughter can actually aid in the healing process and in pain management. Specifically, there has been some suggestion that laughter can help the immune system fight disease.

The health education element will concentrate on educating and instructing patients about their illness and treatment in an energetic, interesting and, most importantly, comedic fashion. The objective is to make the patient a more active participant in his/her treatment by making it more interesting.

The third element, therapeutic entertainment, aims to alleviate the stress of illness and to reduce pain for patients and their families through the use of humor.

In 1998, Comedy Central partnered with affiliates to start the *Comedy Rx* program, in order to heighten awareness of the positive effects of laughter, and make positive contributions to local communities. Affiliates can choose a "Heavy Dose" by creating a comedy event with the proceeds benefitting a hospital, hospice or similar healthcare facility; a "Medium Dose" by sending a comedian to perform at a hospital or similar care-giving facility, or by collecting books and video tapes for a "laughter library", or a "Light Dose" by running *Comedy Rx* public service announcements or selling a sponsorship.

Comedy Rx events have benefitted many local hospitals, in addition to organizations such as Gilda's Club, The Wellness Community, American Cancer Society, United Way, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, American Diabetes Association and March of Dimes.

Comedy Central, the only all-comedy network, offers a distinctive lineup of original programming, including the award-winning *South Park* and *Win Ben Stein's Money* The network also offers stand-up comedy and unique yearly specials, such as the Friars Club Roast and the Mark Twain Prize.

Obtaining Money From the Government

Have you ever wished that you could get your hands on some of the billions of dollars that the government gives away? If so, information in a new booklet might help.

Free Enterprise Institute of Washington, DC has just published a 48-page booklet: *Free Money - Winning the Government Giveaway Game*

"At last count there was around 292 billion in government giveaway programs and free services. The secret is knowing where to look," said Paul Richard, a researcher at the Institute "We've published a booklet that helps people get their share of the government giveaway. It features listings of sources and stories about real people that have obtained government money for such things as: to write a book, to start a business, or to pay off student loans."

Consumers can receive a copy by sending$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to. Free Enterprise Institute, Government Giveaway Booklet Offer, Dept. GGB-407-1, P O Box 96071, Washington, DC 20090-6071.

Globalization Bubble

From Page 1

Under the new rules of globalization, competition for jobs for such assignments as producing garments goes to the lowest bidder, no matter how that low bid is formulated. In the case of Third World countries, they are allowed to cash in on "advantages" such as horrendous working conditions and abysmal wages which are accepted by the governments there.

We cannot nor would we wish to compete under circumstances that would require the United States to ratchet back the social strides we've made as a society--strides we've applied to the workplace.

The trade deficit must also be dealt with in the globalization equation. As we take our place as the world's buyer of foreign goods, this number continues to grow. As noted in a recent Business Week article, "For all of 1999, the deficit is on track to total an estimated record high of $258 billion, up from $164 billion in 1998.

"There's a danger to this. Specifically, the global financial markets may question the ability of the U.S. to finance its resulting external debt." Rapidly growing net interest payments have a depressing effect on an economy.

So globalization has thorns. It can (and already has) cost many jobs here, and it can create an unsustainable trade deficit that eventually, will take money out of the pockets of every American household. Surely NAFTA and the WTO, as extensions of our current trade policy, must be scrutinized with an eye towards U.S. interests.

The Made in U.S.A. label keeps jobs in America. Look for it and you become an extension of our trade policy.

For facts on helping our economy by buying items made in America, write to the Crafted With Pride in the U.S.A. Council at 1045 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10018; or call at 212-819-4397 or fax 212-819-4493.

Robert E. Swift is executive director of the Crafted with Pride in U.S.A. Council in New York City.

Grapevine Want Ads

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for VVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitacion Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, VVCC After School coordinator: (415) 585-2059.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY. The John McLaren Child Development Center seeks in-kind donations for our newly-created lending library: children's books and magazines; small children's furniture; writing and/or art supplies; educational/cultural games or posters. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity! Please send all donations to: John McLaren Child Development Center, 2055 Sunnydale Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134. Call 469-4519 if you would like for us to pick-up any materials.

BEEN THERE...DONE THAT! The Visitacion Valley Jobs, Education and Training Program (across from the site of the recently demolished Geneva Towers) is accepting TANF and GA clients for "Welfare to Work--Job Readiness Training." Classes are conducted by sensitive community trainers from Visitacion Valley. Got issues? No problem! We'll solve them together as you reach for your own self-sufficiency. Feel comfortable while you're trying to sell yourself into today's labor market. Contact Ann or Mary at (415) 239-2866 or 239-2877.

ADVERTISING IN THE GRAPEVINE for *Display*: Full Page $150; 1/2 Page $80; 1/4 Page $45; 1/8 Page $25; 1/12 Page $15. Discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details. *Want Ads:* 20 words for $1. Extra line 50 cents. Mail ad and payment by last day of prior month to Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley business and organization free listings in the 415 area code. Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300.

AUTOMOTIVE
BAYSHORE GAS & SERVICE (mechanic), 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE (mechanic) 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239
CHARLIE'S GARAGE (Charlie Awegh), 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450
GARAGE R BY TOP RACING, 130 Leland Ave. 333-5938
TW AUTOMOTIVE (mechanic), 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281
VALLEY AUTO & TRUCK SUPPLY (Bill Conte), 2520 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5880
BANK
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501
BAKERS
CUNEO BAKERY, 96 Leland Ave., 239-6090
LITTLE OUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253
BARBERS
DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave
THE SHOP (JB), 178 Leland Ave., 239-6709
BEAUTICIANS
ANGEL COIFFURES, 5 Leland Ave., 239-9891
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381
McCALLS FOR HAIR, 3585 San Bruno Ave., 467-7319
MIZ RENA'S SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399
NAILS BY JENNY (manicurist), 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800
A NEW START HAIR STUDIO (Joyce Hollins), 224 Leland Ave., 584-3077
TAMMIES HAIR DESIGN, 3564 San Bruno Ave., 330-9635
BLIND CLEANING
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St., 467-7506
BOARDING HOUSE
ABLES CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4654, fax 333-4693
BOOKKEEPER
VERNA WALLACE E A, 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333
CASKETS
CASKETORIUM, INC., 93 Leland Ave., 585-3451, Cell 722-8500
CHURCHES
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457
ST JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503
CLOTHING
SPONA (designer fashions), 9 Leland Ave., 239-9631
DENTIST
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500
DEVELOPERS
GENEVA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CORP., 333 Schwerin St., 587-7895
TUNTEX U S A, 150 Executive Park Blvd., 468-6676
DISTRIBUTOR
PACIFIC FISH & POULTRY, 2414 San Bruno Ave., 468-2355
ELECTRICAL
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657
FINANCING
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900
FLORISTS
CUPID FLORIST, 36 Leland Ave., 585-7766
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave. 468-0145
GARDEN ORNAMENTS
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990
GROCERS
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300
K C MARKET, 400 Wilde St., 467-3024
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE (deli), 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800
SAM S DELI & LIQUOR, 25 Leland Ave., 239-7183
SARI-SARI FOOD STORE, 58 Leland Ave., 239-0580
7-11 (Manny DeLeon), 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646
SHIREL'S GROCERY, 1401 Visitacion Ave
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851
SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5506
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856
TAUTUA MO OE (Samoan grocery, gifts, fabric), 15 Leland Ave., 585-0509
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave
VALLEY SUPER MARKET, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520
HAIR PRODUCTS
JA'DE HAIR PROOUCTS, 160A Leland Ave
HERBS
KWOK HONG CHINESE HERBS, 57 Leland Ave., 585-8751
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave 333-7469
HYPNOTHERAPY
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631
LAUNDRY/CLEANERS
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave
CITY WASH INTERNATIONAL, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS (David Chan), 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030
LEARNING
3-N-1 LEARNING ACADEMY, 240 Leland Ave., 584-8555
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320
LIBRARY
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave, 239-5270
LOCKSMITH
M-3 LOCKSMITH, 200 Leland Ave., 587-8403
LODGING
THRIFTLODGE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-8811
MANUFACTURERS
NATIONWIDE PAPER COMPANY, 345 Schwerin St., 586-9160
MEDICAL
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept of Public Health), 333 Schwerin St., Appointments 715-0310
DR SAM HO M D. 9 Silliman St No 4. 337-6135
PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Or Onyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave 467-7500
ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 1652 Sunnydale Ave., 584-4044
JOHN KING SENIOR CENTER, 590 Leland Ave., 239-6233
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000
SENIOR CENTRAL DISTRICT 7, 66 Raymond Ave, 330-1789
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 65 Raymond Ave., 467-4499
PHARMACY
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave, 239-5811
PHOTOGRAPHER
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620
PLUMBING
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave., 467-7401
POST OFFICE
VISITACION U S PO., 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777
REALTORS
CAMERON-JONES, INC (Cathy Kline-Saunders), 334-0800
HENRY SCHINDEL, 239-5850
RESTAURANTS
CUFF'S BARBECUE, 2177 Bayshore Blvd 330-0736
G & L BAKERY AND RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283
HONG YUN RESTAURANT (Vietnamese), 73 Leland Ave., 469-5686
SUN FAI RESTAURANT, 30 Leland Ave., 587-2763
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167
RUSSIA HOUSE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-0252
SHIRELS SOUL FOOD, 107 Leland Ave. 239-5141
TWO JACK'S RESTAURANT (seafood and burgers), 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433
SELF-DEVELOPMENT
OYNAMIC OEVELOPMENTS (Marjone Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist) 467-7608
SERVICE PROVIDERS
THE VILLAGE (community center), 333 Schwerin St., 239-5045
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND TRAINING (VVBESST), 120 Leland Ave., 586-7347
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, 50 Raymond Ave, 467-6400
VISITACION VALLEY JOBS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VVJET), 333 Schwerin St, 239-2866
SHOE REPAIR
ARMANDO'S SHOE REPAIR (Armando Rosignuolo), 156A Leland Ave., 239-7216
SIGNS
SMITH'S SIGNS, 153 Leland Ave., 333-2700
TAVERNS
THE CLUB HOUSE, 25 Blanken Ave
OLIVIA'S PLACE, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7711
TRAVEL
COMET TOURS & TRAVEL, 168 Leland Ave., 333-2996
GAMMS TRAVEL SERVICE, 34 Leland Ave., 333-9282
VIDEO
LELAND AVENUE VIDEO, 7 Leland Ave., 333-6288
SIN FUNG VIDEO, 144 Leland Ave., 586-1038

What's That in Your Mailbox? A Masquer-Ad

The buyer was livid. He had received in his office mail a page ripped from a magazine with an article touting a book on public speaking. Ordinarily, he would have thrown the article away--but this one had one of those familiar yellow "stickies" attached, addressed to him by name. "Try this. It's really good!" the handwritten note said, with the signature "J."

"J" happened to be the first initial of his supervisor's name, so the employee promptly ordered the materials, forking over almost $300 for what he assumed to be "obligatory" professional reading.

It wasn't. In fact, the clip wasn't from a real magazine, and the buyer's supervisor had never even seen the "article"--actually an advertisement crafted to look like an independent review, complete with a personal endorsement. Only the most observant fine-print reader was likely to notice the word "Advertisement" printed in tiny type at the top of the jagged-edged page.

Many consumers receive mountains of advertising every day through their mailboxes, their newspapers, their televisions, their telephones and their computers. Much of this advertising--it's important to point out--is valued by the people who receive it because it helps them to identify products and services that fit their needs, and to make educated buying decisions.

But what many people don't appreciate are "masquer-ads"--advertisements disguised as something else so consumers will put them in the "to read" pile instead of throwing them away unopened.

Sometimes these mailings come in official-looking envelopes or mock express delivery packets. Sometimes they bear return addresses with names just close enough to a real agency or organization to sound convincing--"Social Security Agency," for example, instead of "Social Security Administration." Sometimes they appear to contain actual checks or notification of a contest the receiver has won. And sometimes, they look more like personalized letters than bulk mailings, featuring a 33-cent stamp or a handwritten address.

These practices, often referred to as "door-opening devices," might sound shady, but they've been adopted by legitimate companies, charities and political groups--all trying to cut through the clutter to get their own promotions noticed.

Yet the Council of Better Business Bureaus opposes them, fearing that they cast doubt not only on the "masquer-ad," but on other ads as well.

"It potentially sours the credibility of any advertisement," said Ken Hunter, council president. "And that harms the many reputable businesses that use truthful advertising to inform consumers and engage them in a relationship of trust."

The Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are vigilant at going after marketers whose advertising campaigns clearly break the law. And legislation passed by Congress in December 1999 is putting more teeth into their efforts to curb deceptive mailings. The law bans advertisers from sending government look-alike mailings, often enclosed in brown window-style envelopes with official-looking markings that imply a connection with the federal government. It also requires disclosures on sweepstakes mailings to clarify that it's not necessary to buy something to enter the contest, and that a purchase doesn't boost the chances of winning. The mailings also have to disclose the odds of winning a prize.

Advertising that violates these requirements is against the law and subject to prosecution. But many of the advertising ploys that are fooling consumers fall into legal "gray area" and are a lot tougher to challenge in the courts.

That's why the Federal Trade Commission is going directly to consumers, warning them that when it comes to deceptive advertising tactics, the best offense is a strong defense. The FTC is working with the Better Business Bureau and the U.S. Postal Service to show consumers how to recognize advertising even when it looks like something else.

"Not everything that shows up in your mailbox is necessarily what it appears to be," said Lesley Fair, an attorney in the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection who specializes in advertising practices. "Just because something looks official and is addressed directly to you doesn't mean that it is. It may well be an ad."

So what's the consumer to do? "Read your mail carefully and with a critical eye," said Fair. "It's important to keep your guard up!"

Jodie Bernstein, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, recommends sometimes taking things a step further. "When consumers receive an advertising pitch in disguise, one that's clearly meant to make them think it's something else, their best bet may be to make a pitch of their own--into the trash."

Not every mailing that's designed to look like a check or uses a personalized message such as, "Try this. It works!" is a rip-off. But Burnstein questions, why should a consumer take chances? "After all," she said, "why trust a company that wiggles its way into your home or office using a clever disguise?"

As the buyer of the $300 book learned, that's one personal message from "J" worth heeding!

Bernstein encourages consumers to find out more about recognizing deceptive mailings by calling the FTC's toll-free helpline at 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357).

What to Watch For in Your Mailbox:

*Government-like logos or addresses that make the information look important.

*Magazine solicitations that look like renewal notices.

*Checks that, if cashed, switch your telephone carrier.

*Simulated checks that invite credit applications.

*Companies or organizations with "sound-alike" names that play on the reputations of others.

*Solicitations personalized with handwritten addresses or first-class stamps.

*Mailings that imply a personal endorsement from someone you know.

*Ads disguised as personal letters, news stories or independent reviews.

*Endorsements with the word "advertisement" inconspicuously placed or in tiny print.

Study Shows More Subprime Home Loans in Black and Low Income Neighborhoods

WASHINGTON - Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo recently released a study showing that the number of subprime home loans is skyrocketing in predominantly black neighborhoods and low-income neighborhoods. While expanded access to credit is critical, there is growing evidence that some lenders may be engaged in predatory lending that is making homeownership far more costly for blacks and poor families than for whites and middle-class families.

Cuomo released the study - Unequal Burden: Income and Racial Disparities in Subprime Lending in America - at the start of the meeting of a new Predatory Lending Task Force, and announced that Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers will join him as co-chair of the Task Force.

Key findings of the Department of Housing and Urban Development analysis show that:

1) From 1993 to 1998, the number of subprime refinancing loans increased ten-fold.

2) Subprime loans are three times more likely in low income neighborhoods than in high-income neighborhoods.

3) Subprime loans are five times more likely in black neighborhoods than in white neighborhoods.

4) Homeowners in high-income black areas are twice as likely as homeowners in low-income white areas to have subprime loans.

"This study documents shocking disparities, showing that too many African American and poor working families have subprime home loans, which may raise their costs of homeownership," Cuomo said. "This raises concerns of widespread consumer fraud by predatory lenders. HUD and Treasury are now examining these issues and will report on this growing problem."

Secretary Summers said: "Greater access to capital, especially for those who traditionally have not had access to capital, is crucial for American families and the American economy. But it is essential that credit be provided in a transparent and non-exploitative way. That is why we will work on this Task Force to find ways of maximizing credit access while avoiding predatory lending."

"We need legislation that will prohibit the secondary market, Government Sponsored Enterprises, from purchasing predatory loans," Cuomo added. "We should define by legislation what is a predatory loan and the terms and conditions. This should not be a matter of GSE discretion.

The HUD study focused primarily on home refinancing loans, which account for 80 percent of subprime loans. Subprime lending involves providing credit to borrowers with past credit problems, who cannot qualify for the conventional prime market. Subprime lending can include predatory lending, which hits homebuyers with excessive mortgage fees, interest rates, penalties and prepaid credit life insurance charges that can raise the cost of homebuying by thousands of dollars for individual families.

Study Findings

The study found that from 1993 to 1998: The number of subprime home refinancing loans increased 10 fold to more than 790,000. In 1993, the subprime share of the overall mortgage market represented $20 billion. In five years, this volume multiplied more than seven times to $150 billion.

Subprime loans accounted for 51 percent of home loan refinancings in predominantly African American neighborhoods in 1998--but only 9 percent in white neighborhoods. Comparable 1993 figures were 8 percent in black neighborhoods and 1 percent in white neighborhoods.

The racial disparity is so wide that 39 percent of families in high-income black neighborhoods received subprime home loans in 1998, while less than half that number of families in low-income white neighborhoods received subprime loans.

In low-income neighborhoods, subprime loans accounted for 26 percent of total loans in 1998--compared with only 11 percent in moderate-income neighborhoods and just 7 percent in upper-income neighborhoods. Comparable 1993 figures were 3 percent in low-income neighborhoods and 1 percent each in moderate-income and upper-income neighborhoods.

The analysis points out that by providing loans to borrowers who do not meet the credit standards for borrowers in the prime market, subprime lending serves a critical role in the nation's economy. These borrowers may have blemishes in their credit record, insufficient credit history or non-traditional credit sources. Through the subprime loan market, they can buy a new home, improve their existing home, or refinance their mortgage to increase their cash on hand.

The study adds that prime lenders have made significant efforts and progress in reaching historically underserved markets and communities. However, based on the explosive growth of subprime lending in these neighborhoods, much remains to be done, in both the primary and secondary markets. The HUD analysis is the first look at the most recent nationwide data on subprime lending broken down by the income and racial characteristics of neighborhoods nationwide. It is based on a study of nearly 1 million home loans.

HUD-Treasury Task Force

Cuomo and Treasury Undersecretary Gary Gensler hosted a HUD-Treasury Task Force on Predatory Lending, which will hold hearings to determine how to eliminate predatory lending and then report to Congress. HUD and Treasury will:

*Assess the relationship between the availability of prime loans and the growth of subprime lending in different types of neighborhoods, including low-income and minority neighborhoods.

*Review existing state and local initiative to curb subprime lending and assess the merits of alternative strategies, including federal initiatives, to end predatory lending.

HUD and Treasury will host public forums in Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Task force members were also invited to suggest how best to structure these forums and to suggest participants with specific expertise on the topic.

Fresh Ideas for Food

(NAPS) It can be a healthy idea to heed these hints for food freshness and safety:

*Keep hot food hot and cold food cold. Cooked food should not remain at room temperature for more than an hour or two.

*Always wash your hands before and after handling any food.

*Clean working surfaces with hot soapy water before and after placing unwrapped food on them.

*When buying meat, make sure the packaging has not been torn or punctured.

Visitacion Valley Grapevine by Mail

A Valley original, get the next 12 issues for four dollars.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Mail $4 to: Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

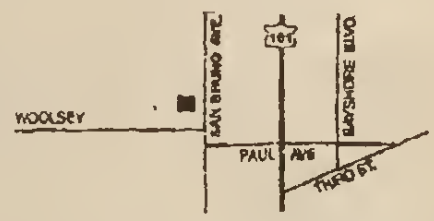
SORE FEET?

PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC

DR. DIVYANG PATEL

Convenient Neighborhood Location

2858 San Bruno Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134



Dr. Patel is specialized in the treatment of all foot and ankle problems, including:

* Ingrown / Painful Nails
* Warts
* Painful Corns & Calluses
* Bunions / Hammertoes
* Painful Heels / Arches
* Arthritis / Related Problems
* Diabetic Feet / Ulcers
* Poor Circulation Problems
* Orthotic Devices
* Ankle & Foot Injuries

CALL NOW FOR AN APPOINTMENT

467-7500

Medicare, Medi-Cal, HMOs and Most Insurances Accepted